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1960-09-04, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

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Subject Terms

Women and the military, Women and war, United States -- Air Force, United States -- Army -- Air Forces, Photographs, Armed Forces -- Correspondence, Correspondence -- Vietnam War -- 1961-1975, Christmas

Summary

This collection contains 139 correspondence from Maj. Bette J. Barto, USAFE to her parents while serving as a nurse during the late 1950s and 1960s. Also included are three photographs, one special orders document, and one marriage license. In several cases, Bette refers to her parents as "Lizzie" and "Hugh Elmer," or simply "Elmer." Three letters from 1961 or 1962 are undated and placed in a separate folder.

Keywords

1960-09-04

Identifier

2017-219-w-r-_Barto_ColdWar_1960-09-04

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4 September 60

5⁴⁵ pm Sunday

Dear Mom and Hugh Elmer,

I have just finished my usual afternoon chores, and am ready for work again in the a.m. - seems that about all I do anymore. It's a lovely Sunday - almost feels like just even if everything still looks like midsummer here. We do have a bit of a breeze today and we noticed the sunrise is a little slower getting here after I get up in the morning - so I guess its getting along toward bag-packing time for me, even if I do feel the calendars and clocks have all gorged up on me. One hundred and thirty-seven days more or less and it isn't as long as it has been -

Tomorrow is Labor Day for most folks and it is Labor Day for me but on duty. My holiday will be Wednesday instead. I don't have much use for days off anyway because I spend them here in my room working at something anyway. We are so short of nurses with our new ward being opened that none

of my cronies are off when I'm off any-
more.

We don't get any mail until
Tuesday because of the holiday, so
I haven't had a letter from you
or Ray since last Thursday. I got
your letter with the 2 V. thing in it
and mailed it back, Mon - Will mark
I have the letter - I haven't heard
from Ray since he returned from
his first X-Country to Waco, Texas.
He wrote me from there - had a
good flight out and expected to be
back at Seymour by 6 pm last
Monday - our mail is getting slower
and slower -

I have Daddy's birthday package
about ready to go, but I won't get
it mailed before Wed. probably. I'll
let you know when. It's not a lot -
just something to show I didn't forget.

Ray should be getting the scarf
I made for him, to wear with
his flying suit. I'm eager to hear
if he likes it.

There's not much news worthy
stuff here. We got an emergency
air- wave through here full of
our troops who were beaten up
in the Congo - they stayed overnight
and really had some tales to tell

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I wasn't on duty so I didn't see any of them - they left in the early a.m. for the Continent.

Mom, I have a few Christmas gifts for Helen's brood and I want to get them mailed as soon as I can so as to avoid the rush at the post office around 1 November - so if you will send me Helen's new address as soon as you get it I'll try to send them on - I don't want to leave everything till the last minute because if Ray and I do decide to marry over here, I'll be busy with the Libysons and won't want to keep Ray mailing packages while he's here. I am going ahead with a formal request to my Commander to be married, so if Ray gets the leave, things will be half-way completed. I have an appt. with Col. Cada Tues. to sign the request - from then on its up to the Military machine & the Libyson tape fingers!

Mom, how much do I owe for both my table cloth & Mrs. Salisbury's? I want to pay for them.

Anne and I are going to the club for dinner so I'd better

quit paddlin^g and find something
to wear - All my summer clothes
need cleaning and I'm just going
to wait till I get home if I can
last with nothing to wear - It's
so ~~close~~ to fall-wardrobe time,
I should make it, since I seldom
wear a dress now. I'm back to
wondering what I wore before I
got my blue jeans. That sound
familiar, Mom?

I'll include a cartoon that
Ray sent me from Haco -
it does look like you two with
your 2 television sets -

I'll quit for now - try for
more Tuesday - Hope I get a
letter too.

Love you
Miss you -

Pete